



The

Mountain View

www.taskforcemountain.com

December 24, 2008

Iraqi Army NCOs learn from Deep Strike

SGT. ALLISON CHURCHILL
41ST FIRES BDE.



FOB DELTA – Nearly 20 Iraqi Army noncommissioned officers gathered on Forward Operating Base Delta Dec. 17 and 18 for an NCO professional development class with Coalition forces.

The course for Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade was the brainchild of Sgt. Maj. Robert Norvell, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade operations sergeant major and was taught by his Soldiers.

“We found out they didn’t have any programs for NCO development within their battalion,” said Norvell. He coordinated the class with the IA through Battery C, 2-20 FA, which is serving as a military transition team while deployed to Iraq.

The first day of classes covered the history, duties and role in training of the NCO Corps. The second day’s instructions covered troop leading procedures, conducting an after action review and counseling.

“The first day defined who we are as

NCOs,” said Norvell, a native of Louisville, Ky. “Today (Dec. 18) we moved into applications – how we as NCOs put our hands on, counsel and mentor Soldiers.”

The Deep Strike instructors used a variety of visual aids to ease translation. During the troop leading procedures class, Sgt. 1st Class Siamrath Kumnog, of Charleston, S.C., battalion operations NCO, performed an inspection of a Soldier’s “battle rattle,” and had one of the Iraqi NCOs perform a back brief for a mission to Baghdad.

First Sgt. Donald Wilson, a native of Paducah, Ky., Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-20 FA, had the Iraqi NCOs observe U.S. Soldiers poorly perform preventive maintenance checks and services in order to spot the mistakes.

“The explanations were very clear, and all the aids for training were here,” said Sgt. Ali Jabir, of 1-32 IA Bde.

“We’re thankful for what the Coalition forces have done for us,” said Sgt. Maj. Munir Badir Abed. “This will help us gather more information.”

Norvell said he plans to make the IA NCO monthly training.



Photo by Sgt. Allison Churchill

An Iraqi NCO observes as a U.S. Soldier performs a PMCS during a class on FOB Delta Dec. 17 and 18. The class was part of an NCO development course 2-20 FA senior enlisted leaders held for their partners in 1-32 IA Bde.

Long Knives receive hero’s send off from USO

SGT. 1ST CLASS DAMIAN STEPTORE
4TH BCT PAO, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB ADDER – After spending 18 days resting home in the coastal city of Huntington Beach, Ca., Pfc. Travis Kaufman wasn’t expecting much more.

However, as soon as the 21-year-old U.S. Army communications specialist assigned to the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, arrived at the Dallas Fort Worth Airport, a band of private citizens from central and northern Texas greeted him.

Their sole purpose was to provide Kaufman and the 4th BCT Long Knife Soldiers with a smooth transition as the Sol-

diers returned to Iraq from rest and relaxation leave Dec 10.

“I thought I was going to stop in here and go,” said Kaufman. “Then, I saw a turkey dinner, and I thought... yeah.”

The turkey dinner was provided by the United Service Organization as a way of extending a touch of home to the transitioning Soldiers while they traveled during the holiday season. Food, beverages and free internet access were available while the unit waited for their return flight to Iraq.

“This is so much more than I expected,” said Kaufman, as he received multiple handshakes and hugs from members of

See HERO, page 3

Army legacy continues even after retirement

STAFF SGT. MICHEL SAURET
MND-C



CAMP VICTORY – The number one rule of Sgt. Maj. Richard Martin's Army career was simple:

"Always take care of your Soldiers first. Never, never an exception to that. You never have to (make an exception). Everything will work itself out. If you take care of them, they take care of you. So you don't have to worry about anything," said Martin, a native of Syracuse, N.Y.

In Martin's case, this rule isn't just "sergeant major speak." Martin is looking at retirement in 2010 and sees his Soldiers as his future. After all, they will be paying for his pension.

He laughed at the thought of that, but he meant every word when he talked about how much his Soldiers mean to him.

"I'll really have never retired because I have so many young Soldiers who I've trained who have the same values and leadership that I had, and my legacy will just keep on going because we're going to train some of them the same way; and then, those are going to take off," he said.

"I'll never really leave the Army. I'm there. It's just a different name."

Martin's lineage led him through 28 years of Army experiences to today. He is the senior enlisted leader for the 10th Mountain Division retention office. In two more years, he'll retire at the age



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

Sgt. Maj. Richard Martin, of Syracuse, N.Y., the retention sergeant major for 10th Mtn. Div., plans on retiring in 2010 at the age of 49, but knows he will have left a legacy behind in the Army.

of 49.

"My father, who is a retired accountant, his pension was great in his day," Martin said. "He gets paid \$3,500 a month (from) the day he retired. Now, that was 11 years ago. He still gets \$3,500 a month, and he retired at 61. I'm going to retire at 49, and I'm go-

ing to step out making \$4,500 a month. And the government's retirement is (cost of living) adjusted ... so basically when I'm out and I'm 65 years old, my (pension) will grow to \$7,791 a month."

That's something Martin never thought about when he joined as a 19-year-old private, basically fresh out of high school. He went into the skill field of a heavy equipment mechanic. At first, Martin planned to gain on-the-job training and take the knowledge back to a civilian career. His first enlistment was four years, but his father barely expected him to make it that far.

"Out of four kids, I'm the one who kept a pep in his step," Martin said. "Believe me. He was saying, 'What's going on with this kid?' Basically ... my dad, when he dropped me off at the Syracuse Airport, Oct. 15, 1980, (to begin my Army Basic Combat Training) he said, 'Good luck, but I got a feeling you're going to be back here in a couple of weeks because you're not going to be able to take orders.'"

Martin used his father's words as a motivator through training, but even he didn't expect to stick around after his first contract. Retirement in the Army wasn't even close to something he considered.

He did aim for advancement through the ranks. He took advantage of a fast

See LEGACY, page 3

THE Mountain View

The Mountain View is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The Mountain View are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 10th Mountain Division. All editorial content of The Mountain View is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Mountain Public Affairs Office.

TASK FORCE MOUNTAIN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Commanding General - MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL L. OATES

Command Sergeant Major - COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JAMES W. REDMORE

Editorial Staff

TF Mountain PAO — Lt. Col. Paul Swiergosz
OIC, Command Information — 1st Lt. Julie Glaubach
NCOIC — Master Sgt. Stephen Opet
Managing Editor — Staff Sgt. Amber Emery
Assignment Editor — Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret
Copy Editor — Spc. Josh LeCappelain
Editors/Design — Spc. Sophia Lopez,
Spc. Justin Snyder
Staff Writers — Spc. Tiffany Evans, Sgt. David Turner

Contributing Units

2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division
4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division
4th BCT, 3rd Infantry Division
7th Sustainment Brigade
41st Fires Brigade
354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
793rd Military Police Battalion
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
Task Force 449

Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-Center_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

LEGACY

From previous page

track program which offered him a job in concrete and asphalt, a position needing Soldiers at the time.

At one point, Martin became the retention junior enlisted officer for a company in Alaska – a place which, by the way, had little use for him as concrete specialist – and as his first contract came to an end, he felt a bit of a hypocrite encouraging other Soldiers to stay in the Army if he was thinking about getting out. He waited until his very last day and decided to tack on two more years.

“If you ever looked at my contract from my initial enlistment, it was two, two, two...” he said. “So I kept going with doing two’s, which was interesting because you can’t do that anymore.”

Suddenly, Martin found he served 10 years already, and the benefits of

a military career began to play in his mind.

“I was sitting right at the 10-year mark, and I said, ‘Wow. I’m 10 years away from my retirement,’” said Martin, who called that a defining moment.

“I sat down and talked to my father ... (and) he was the one who said, ‘You’ve got to be a fool if you don’t stay in. You know that people would do anything to be 10 years away from retirement and only be 29 years old?’”

Martin has seen vast improvements during his years in the Army. Most of the noncommissioned officers in his young days were people he would call “old and crusty.” Today, he sees a majority of NCOs who are young, bright and articulate. Not only that, but NCOs and officers are paired together as team members to lead units. Their relationship is not as divided as it once was.

The growth in pay is something else he finds remarkable. His first pay-

stub as an E-1, which he still has today, showed his base pay was \$580 a month in 1980. He’ll be earning much more than that as a retired, not-so-old man.

“If you ever go to a (Veterans of Foreign Wars gathering) or American Legion, you hear these people going, ‘Wow. I could have been you if I had stayed in. I could be retired right now. I wish I had stayed in.’ You never hear a veteran say, ‘I’m glad I didn’t stay in.’ You never hear that. You always hear, ‘I wish I would have stuck it out.’”

Once his Army career is behind him, Martin plans on moving to Sackets Harbor, N.Y., where he built a house and started a construction business.

“Also, I dabble in a little architectural concrete,” said Martin, who was never really able to use his concrete skills. “So I ended up using my concrete experience that I learned in the Army (after all). Yep. It is funny ... Look! The Army did teach (me) something!”

HERO

From page 1

the Mimosa Lane Baptist church in Mesquite, Texas, who volunteered their time to help the USO for the day.

The young, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Soldier is currently on his first tour in Iraq and has only 16 months of military experience. He said the greeting at the airport was much different than what his father received after returning home from Vietnam.

“He served four years in the Marines,” said an emotional Kaufman. “I know he would have appreciated all this; it’s so nice to see people supporting us like this.”

The USO is a private, non-profit organization, whose mission is to provide morale, welfare and recreation to men and women in uniform. The organization currently operates more than 130 centers worldwide.

“There are no words that can explain how important it is to show support,” said Shirley Cooker, a USO volunteer and member of the Mimosa Lane Baptist church.

Cooker and approximately 25 USO volunteers did everything they could to provide the Long Knife Soldiers with a proper send off as the unit continues its 15-month deployment in southern Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Damian Steptore
Pfc. Travis Kaufman, 27th BSB, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., receives a hand shake from a USO volunteer as he departs the Dallas Fort Worth Airport returning to Iraq after R&R leave.

Soldier, NCO of the Quarter

Photos by Spc. Justin Snyder

(Right) Spc. Meagan Finkhousen, of Bowling Green, Ohio, Division Special Troops Battalion medic, receives an Army Achievement Medal and T-wall award from Lt. Col. Stephen Parker, DSTB commander for winning the honor of the first DSTB Soldier of the Quarter.



(Left) Sgt. Ryan Bergschneider, of Jacksonville, Ill., DSTB mechanic, receives an Army Achievement Medal and T-wall award for winning the first DSTB NCO of the Quarter.



Staff Section Round-up

Chaplain's Corner: *Connecting with family during the holidays*

"Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies...." – Psalms 23:5

"The who's down in whoville gathered around the table and began to sing...." – How the Grinche Stole Christmas

Look all around here on any given day, and you will see reminders that 'tis the season to be jolly; Remember the reason for the season; or "We say Christmas" (popular news network).

What will you miss most this season? Be sure and tell somebody back home.

Ask most anybody you see here on any given day, and they will be happy to share the reasons why deployment is challenging - both personally and professionally. They may include difficult conditions i.e. "peanut-butter mud" when it rains, not enough sleep, loss of privacy, severely limited personal time and activities, regular and reliable access to communication outside of this location, restrictions on travel, constrictions on what you can say on internet blogs or email, proper or improper uniform (belt sideways, not crossways or shorts versus long sleeve), cell phones that work 10 percent of the time, the PX consistently runs out of the needed uniform (how can that happen more than once?), roads still aren't paved (ask someone that was here in this same area five years ago!) and of course, the long and repeated tours.

Ask most anybody, and you will usually (not always) be told by the speaker it is challenging to be here and especially now during Christmas and holi-

day time.

I say Christmas and holiday time because although the large majority of our military celebrates Christmas, others do not - but still celebrate other holidays (Hanukkah, Solstice, Kwanzaa, among others) during and around this time. Traditionally, these are times when Families and friends gather around the table, count blessings and say prayers - each in their own tradition and culture.

This gathering may include gifts to be given, lots of food to be eaten (favorite recipes brought in), tales to be shared of travels and adventures over the last year, words of wisdom and love dispensed, ball games or parades watched on the television, board games played and music enjoyed. All in all, it's a day-long union or reunion where bodies and spirits are fortified for the next year and that which is to come.

Some folks in the mental and spiritual health specialties claim that unique and difficult to reproduce acts of love, affirmation and identity occur during these repeated visits across the years. They claim that folks sitting around a table of fellowship and love are stronger in life's battles, preserve better than those who don't have such a table and find greater success in life in general.

I don't defend this claim as such. I simply offer it for your consideration for truth in your own life.

My father built a table years ago that has been a feature in all my adult life. He built it out of seasoned oak wood, and it is still solid today. My wife and three sons sat around it before I de-

ployed. That table, across the years, has included food, discussions at decision points in life, funerals and deaths, wedding planning, much laughter about life's humorous moments and huge Christmas feasts. I won't be at that table this year. I will miss that.

You and I who usually make such gatherings will instead make do here. We will gather with the ones who have become Family as we continue our fight against all enemies, foreign and domestic like we all swore to do.

Let us be mindful that, for this season, history and the hand of God calls us to this place and time. In future time, when once again we have the opportunity to gather and sing, love and affirm, and celebrate the special moments being around the Family table - where bodies and spirits are fortified for the next year and that which is to come - be sure to be there when you have a choice.

Meanwhile, let us be fortified to resist the enemies of despair and loneliness that might come at us this season, the perplexing issues of peanut-butter mud and roads that are still full of potholes, and remember those who hold us dear back at the tables of our homes - and be of good cheer.

If something uplifting occurs to you that you will miss back home this year, be sure to call and tell someone. Resolve not to miss it next time you have a choice.

As they say, 'tis the season to be jolly. Don't let anyone rob you of it.

Charles, Michael LTC USA
MND-C CHAPLAIN

WHAT WAS YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE CHRISTMAS PRESENT?



Photo by Spc. Justin Snyder

"I got a train track when I was little. That was so cool when I was little," said Spc. Adam Roney, of Johnston, Iowa, 10th Mountain Division chaplain's assistant.



Photo by Spc. Justin Snyder

"My X-BOX 360 that I got while I was in Iraq," said Pfc. Dustin Thacker, of Fall Branch, Tenn., paralegal, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mtn. Div.

Headline Round-up

U.S. News:

Five Muslim immigrants accused of scheming to massacre U.S. Soldiers at Fort Dix were convicted of conspiracy Monday in a case that tested the FBI's post-Sept. 11 strategy of infiltrating and breaking-up terrorist plots in their earliest stages. The men could get life in prison when they are sentenced in April. The five, who lived in and around Philadelphia for years, were found guilty of conspiring to kill U.S. military personnel; they were acquitted of attempted murder after prosecutors acknowledged the men were probably months away from an attack and did not necessarily have a specific plan. Four of the five were also convicted of weapons charges.

World News:

A pair of 4,300-year-old pharaonic tombs discovered at Saqqara, Egypt, indicate that the sprawling necropolis south of Cairo is even larger than previously thought, Egypt's top archaeologist said Dec. 22. The rock-cut tombs were built for high officials — one responsible for the quarries used to build the nearby pyramids and another for a woman in charge of procuring entertainers for the pharaohs.

Health News:

Even a little bit of extra weight can raise the risk of heart failure, according to a U.S. study published on Monday that calculated the heart hazards of being pudgy but not obese. It comes as little surprise that obesity makes a person much more apt to heart failure, a deadly condition in which the heart is unable to pump enough blood throughout the body. Researchers who tracked the health of 21,094 U.S. male doctors for two decades found that even those who were only modestly overweight had a higher risk -- and it grew along with the amount of extra weight.

Odd News:

The American Museum of Natural History's latest discovery is a diamond in the rough: a visitor's \$15,000 gem in a vacuum-cleaner bag. The one-carat stone fell out of Catherine Hart's ring during a "Night at the Museum" sleepover event at the storied New York institution. Custodial supervisor Herbert Andujar says staffers in gloves and masks combed through the dust in four vacuum bags, scrutinizing everything that glittered, before finding the gem.

WHAT WAS YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE CHRISTMAS PRESENT?



Photo by Spc. Justin Snyder

"A replica WWE Undisputed Championship belt. I'm getting it this year," said Spc. Robert Boydston, of Pueblo, Colo., mail clerk, Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division.



Photo by Spc. Sophia R. Lopez

"My father let me drive a 1969 Mach One Mustang," said Sgt. Brandon Bresson, of Minneota, Minn., administrative law noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Battery D, 244th Air Defense Artillery.

Quote of the Day

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do." – Confucius

S	5	8		6	4		3
		6	1	3			9
u	2		3		9		4
d	1	2	5		7		3
	8		9				6
o							4
				3	8	1	5
k		1		5	9	4	7
							5
u	9		6		2	8	

For the answer to today's puzzle, go to:



www.taskforcemountain.com